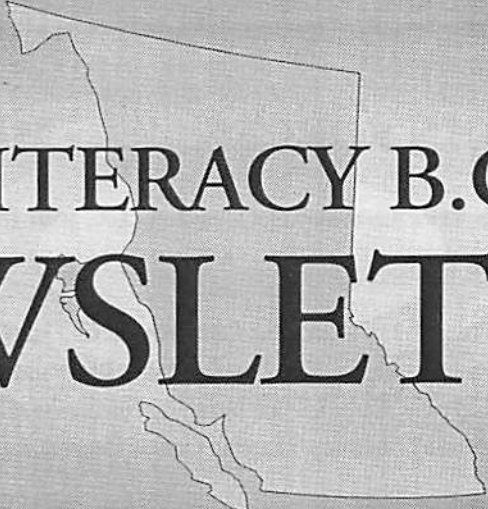




LITERACY B.C. NEWSLETTER

MARCH 1995

VOLUME 5, NUMBER 1

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS TO THE LITERACY B.C. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Elections for the Literacy B.C. Board of Directors will be held in May and June, by mail.

Please send us names of people you would like to nominate for the 1995-96 elections. The following positions on the Board of Directors are available:

A Regional Representative for:

**Camosun
Cariboo
East Kootenay
Kwantlen
North Island
Northern Lights
Northwest
Selkirk**

The Literacy B.C. Board of Directors meets 4 times each year, usually in Vancouver. All expenses for attending meetings are paid by Literacy B.C.

Board members are expected to attend all Board meetings and to be involved in the work of Literacy B.C., in committees and in their communities.

Literacy B.C. wants to have a Board of Directors that includes learners, people from colleges, school districts and community based programs, libraries, business, labour and other interest groups.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL:
(604) 687-5077 or fax (604) 687-5076

There are also **5 MEMBER AT LARGE** positions. All positions are for a two year term.

**PLEASE HELP US TO HAVE A STRONG ORGANIZATION...
SEND THE ENCLOSED NOMINATION FORM BY APRIL 28, 1995
THANKS!**

LITERACY B.C. AND ADULT LITERACY CONTACT CENTRE (ALCC) JOIN FORCES. MERGER NEWS

Since the decision, in October 1994, to have Literacy B.C. and ALCC join forces a number of activities have taken place.

A Planning Committee consisting of 4 members from the Literacy B.C. Board and 4 members from the ALCC Steering Committee have met to develop a plan for the new organization.

This Planning Committee consisted of: Betty Nobel, Phil Knight, Sheila Wallace and Jim Bray from the ALCC Steering Committee and Bob Gadsby, Stacey Huget, Carol Bossio and Vicki Bragan from Literacy B.C.

The Planning Committee hired a consultant who assisted them with developing a plan which will resolve the public confusion about the similarities between the two groups and provide a more cost effective, unified organization for literacy in B.C.

It has been agreed that the new organization will provide the following services:

1. A 1-800 help line
2. A Resource Centre, which includes information on programs, a database and resource materials
3. A Professional Development Program. This will include workshops and conferences for literacy practitioners, learners and others.
4. A Regional Development and Support Program, to provide outreach and consultation
5. A Public Awareness Program
6. Membership Services Program. This will include bi-monthly Newsletter and regional coordination/networks.

It was also agreed that a new public "name" will be considered which will reflect the joining of the two organizations. Literacy B.C., as a registered Society with charitable tax status, will be the governing body for the new organization.

The Literacy B.C. Board, the ABEABC and the ALCC Steering Committee members are all very pleased and excited about these outcomes and look forward to having a stronger, more effective voice for literacy in B.C.

The Planning Committee and staff are hard at work on all the final details. It is hoped that we will all be under "one roof" by the beginning of June.



UPDATE ON LITERACY B.C. PROJECTS

Each year Literacy B.C. undertakes a number of projects which provide services to the literacy field in B.C. This year the projects are:

A PROVINCIAL LITERACY RESOURCE CENTRE STUDY

This is a cost shared project in partnership with the Open Learning Agency and is designed to provide information about the feasibility of having a Provincial Literacy Resource Centre. There is an Advisory Committee assisting Literacy B.C. with the project. The members are: Linda Hackett, ALCC; Laurie Gould, VCC; Thomas Quigley, BCLA.

Activities so far include:

- hiring a research consulting firm to conduct the study
- development of the needs assessment, workplan and content of the research
- telephone and mail in questionnaires to literacy experts, learners and practitioners in B.C. and a survey of other literacy Resource Centres

A final report including future plans for the next steps in developing a Provincial Resource Centre for literacy will be complete and available by May 1995.

FOUNDATION SKILLS PROJECT

Funded by the National Literacy Secretariat this project is designed to:

- raise awareness of workforce training issues

- provide consultation, information and support to groups who want to start workforce basic skills programs
- build networks and cooperative workforce training programs
- provide a forum for discussion

Partners in the project include Literacy B.C., SkillPlan, the Open Learning Agency and the B.C. Chamber of Commerce. An Advisory Committee, consisting of senior executives from B.C. Federation of Labour, BCIT, IWA/ Canada and the B.C. Chamber have provided valuable support. The Ministry of Skills, Training and Labour has also provided advice and support.

Next month, in conjunction with regional Chamber of Commerce meetings, a series of presentations will be held in B.C. and the Yukon. Information packages, promotional material and individual consultation will be available to all participants.

A workforce education consultant has been hired and will be housed at Literacy B.C. This individual will provide follow up consultation, training and support to people interested in setting up programs. The project will be completed in December 1995.

REGIONAL COORDINATORS PROJECT

Literacy B.C. and the Adult Basic Education Association of B.C. are partners in a pilot project funded by the National Literacy Secretariat. The **purpose** of the project is to develop a model for regional literacy coordinators to be resource people to literacy practitioners and program coordinators using volunteer



UPDATE ON LITERACY B.C. PROJECTS

REGIONAL COORDINATORS PROJECT Continued

tutors. The project is taking place between January and June 1995.

The **objectives** of the project are:

1. To train experienced coordinators to act as resource people to literacy program coordinators
2. To develop and strengthen regional literacy networks and coordinate one professional development event with literacy coordinators and practitioners in each of the 3 regions
3. To establish literacy resource material collections in each of the 3 regions
4. To provide information, resources, consultation and support to literacy practitioners, program coordinators and volunteer tutors
5. To develop a strategic plan to continue the project

The project is taking place in the following 3 regions: Selkirk, Northern Lights and East Kootenay.

In the Selkirk Region, **Sue Port** is the Regional Literacy Coordinator. Sue has been involved with Project Literacy West Kootenay for a number of years. She has trained volunteer tutors, attended professional development workshops including the Summer Literacy Institute, and has been on the Board of Literacy B.C. Plans are underway in Selkirk Region for a Volunteer Skills Development Workshop to be held in Castlegar in late April. Sue can be reached at home at (604) 365-6056 or by fax c/o Marvin Work at Selkirk College (604) 365-2132.

Nora Bitner is the Regional Literacy Coordinator in Northern Lights. Nora is coordinating the Literacy Contact Centre in Fort St. John, working with volunteer tutors. She is also a counsellor in private practice and teaches as a sessional instructor in the social service worker program at Northern Lights College. Nora can be reached at Northern Lights College in Fort St. John at (604) 785-6981 or at the Literacy Contact Centre at (604) 785-2110.

Greg Meaker is the Regional Literacy Coordinator in the East Kootenay Region. Greg lives in Golden and is a Project Read Coordinator at East Kootenay Community College. He is the ABE fundamental instructor, LINC coordinator and has also coordinated the International Education Program. In consultation with literacy practitioners and coordinators, Greg is making plans for a Professional Development Workshop in late May. Greg can be reached at East Kootenay Community College, Golden Campus at (604) 344-5901 or fax (604) 344-5745.

For more information on this project please contact Mary Thompson Boyd at (604) 687-5077.

VOLUNTEER SKILLS DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

This project is funded by the Voluntary Action Program, Department of Canadian Heritage. Three community development workshops will take place in Northern Lights Region, Selkirk Region and East Kootenay Region by the end of June.



1995 PROVINCIAL LEARNERS CONFERENCE

MAY 17 - 19, 1995

"LEARNERS TODAY - LEADERS TOMORROW"

Plans for this year's Conference are going very well. The Planning Committee is hard at work planning a conference that is exciting and fun. A total of 60 learners will be able to attend the Conference at Columbia Bible Camp near Cultus Lake. **Three learners** from each of the 15 regions will be selected by their region to attend.

The Conference will include time for sharing, workshops, outdoor activities, a talent night and special guests.

There will be workshops on:

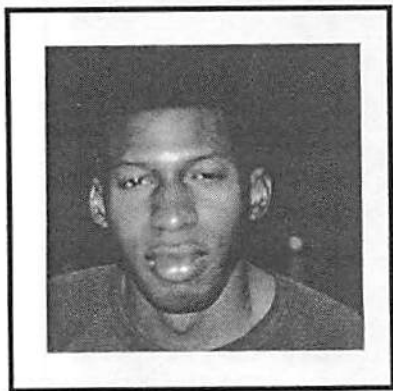
- communication skills
- public speaking and media training
- learner involvement on boards and committees
- building learner networks

FOR MORE INFORMATION, call (604) 687-5077 or fax (604) 687-5076

Mary Thompson Boyd, Conference Coordinator

PROVINCIAL LEARNERS CONFERENCE PLANNING COMMITTEE

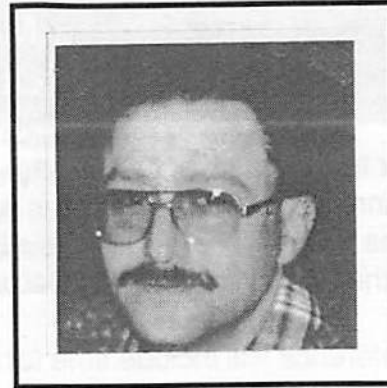
We would like you to meet the people on the Planning Committee. If you are coming to the Conference you will see familiar faces!



SEAN ROACHE, Camosun Region. Sean is a student at Camosun College. He has been on the Board of Project Literacy Victoria. He is now vice-chair of the Board of Project Literacy Victoria.



DAVID BENTLEY, Cariboo Region.
Dave is from Williams Lake. He is
involved with the Growth Centre
and with the District Parent Advisory
Committee in his School District.



MERYLE BLANEY, East Kootenay
Region. Meryle is a student at East
Kootenay Community College. She
lives in Cranbrook. She is very pleased
to be on the Planning Committee.

ERNA BARWICH, Fraser Valley Region.
Erna lives in Yarrow, B.C., is married and
has six sons. She is on the Board of
Literacy B.C., on the Learners Caucus
and is also on the Board of the Movement
for Canadian Literacy (MCL).



PANKISH GOSWAMI, Kwantlen Region. Pankish is a student at Delview
Learning Centre. He is 21 years old and lives in Surrey. PHOTO UNAVAILABLE

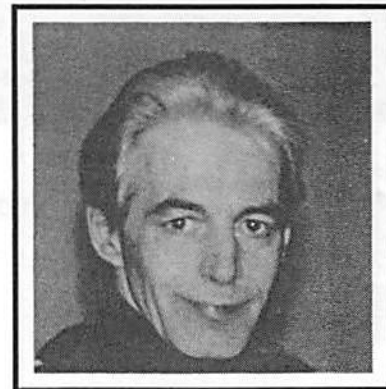


CAROL BOSSIO, Malaspina Region.
Carol is involved with The Write Place in Parksville. She organized a fund raising walk for The Write Place in June '93. She is on the Board of Literacy B.C. and on the Learners Caucus. She is now a student at Malaspina College.



MARIE BERTACCO, New Caledonia Region. Marie is a student at the College of New Caledonia in Burns Lake. She is very excited to be on the Planning Committee and looking forward to the Conference.

YANNICK JANELLE, North Island Region. Yannick is a student at North Island College in Campbell River. He is designing the logo for the Provincial Learners Conference.



TERESA LIGHT, Northern Lights Region. Teresa is a student at Northern Lights Community College. She is also involved with the Literacy Centre in Fort St. John.





DORIS DENNIS, Northwest Region. Doris is a student at Northwest Community College in Houston. She is looking forward to the Conference and very glad to be on the Planning Committee.

RITA MANDRYK, Okanagan Region. Rita lives in Kelowna. She is married and the mother of four children. Rita is on the Board of Literacy B.C. and also on the Learners Caucus.



JULIE HANSON, Selkirk Region. Julie is a student at Selkirk College in Castlegar. She is a single mother with two children. She is looking forward to the Conference and being part of an exciting event.

BRENDA GILES, Vancouver Region. Brenda is the Vancouver Regional Representative on the Planning Committee. She is on the Board and Executive of Literacy B.C. She is also on the Learners Caucus. Brenda is a student at the Vancouver Community College. She and her son live in Vancouver.



MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND MINISTRY OF SKILLS, TRAINING AND LABOUR JOINT COMMITTEE ON ADULT EDUCATION....A REPORT

Over the past five years, a series of seven reports examined a variety of issues pertaining to the delivery of Adult Basic Education (ABE). The 1992 Faris report in particular pointed to perceived inequities in the level of funding provided by each ministry for similar types of services.

As a result of these reports and inter-ministry discussions, a joint committee of the Ministry of Education (MoE) and the Ministry of Skills, Training and Labour (MSTL) was struck, in the Summer of 1994, to address the most pressing issues identified. The overall responsibility of the Joint Committee is to act as a forum for the two ministries to work together in improving the quality and accessibility of ABE.

The terms of reference for that committee began with a commitment to review the two systems' funding and fee structures and to make recommendations for a consistent policy on fees and funding. Coopers and Lybrand Consulting were contracted to complete an independent review of the funding and fees structures. They presented their report on December 28, 1994. The Joint Committee is now reviewing the report and will be making recommendations to the Ministers.

An information meeting was held for interested representatives on February 3, at Douglas College, to present the findings of the consultant's report. Members of the Joint Committee and representatives of consultants were in attendance.

People attending the meeting were generally in agreement that there is a need to "level the playing field" in ABE. There was strong consensus that legitimate measures of program effectiveness, a joint credential and a common articulation process are needed. A decision on fees and funding for ABE will be made by the Ministers of MSTL and MoE in the future.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Norma Kidd
Manager, Development Programs Branch
Ministry of Skills, Training and Labour
Fax: (604) 356-8851

or

Sharon Russell
Director, Corporate Policy Branch
Ministry of Education
Fax: (604) 356-2504



ANNOUNCEMENTS

B.C. BOOKS FOR LITERACY

This brochure is inserted in the Newsletter. If you would like a display of this new collection contact:

Association of Book Publishers of B.C.
107 - 100 W. Pender Street
Vancouver, B.C. V6B 1R8
Phone: (604) 684-0228
Fax: (604) 684-5788

MOVEMENT FOR CANADIAN LITERACY (MCL)

Copies of the final report on MCL's Brief to the Standing Committee on Human Resources Development are now available from MCL. To order your copy contact MCL at:

458 McLaren Street
Ottawa, Ontario K1R 5K6
Phone (613) 563-2464
Fax: (613) 563-2504

Thank you to everyone who sent letters to MCL for this Brief to government.

HAVE YOUR ART ON THE COVER OF LEARNERS TALKING TO LEARNERS!

We would like your help to make the 1995 cover of "Learners Talking to Learners" more interesting.

Please send us your designs for the cover. One of the designs will be chosen for the cover of the 1995 booklet, "Learners Talking to Learners".

The design you submit should:

- BE IN BLACK AND WHITE
- BE EITHER 8 1/2 INCHES WIDE BY 11 INCHES HIGH (front cover only) **OR** 17 INCHES WIDE BY 11 INCHES HIGH (front and back cover)
- HAVE THE FOLLOWING WORDS - **LEARNERS TALKING TO LEARNERS 1995**

The deadline for submissions is **June 15, 1995**. Please include your name and a day and evening phone number.

Mail your design to:

Learners Talking to Learners
c/o 707 - 12th Street
New Westminster, B.C. V3M 4J7

WHO WE ARE

Literacy B.C., founded in March 1990, is a coalition of people and groups concerned with promoting literacy in B.C.

Our mission is to promote literacy, to support literacy learners, to develop community partnerships and to present a united voice on literacy. We are supported by Human Resources Development Canada, National Literacy Secretariat, memberships and donations. Literacy B.C. welcomes your news and comments. Send to:

LITERACY B.C.
1122 - 510 W. HASTINGS STREET
VANCOUVER, B.C.
PHONE: (604) 687-5077
FAX: (604) 687-5076

DONATIONS TO LITERACY B.C.
ARE INCOME TAX DEDUCTIBLE



SPECIAL EVENTS

SKI FOR LITERACY



The first annual SKI FOR LITERACY, held January 27th, 1995 at Whistler, was an overwhelming success. 90 avid skiers gathered to enjoy a day of leisure skiing and fun team races coached by Valdy, champion skiers Stephanie Sloan and Robin McLeish; Grey Cup Champions: Tom Europe, Ray Alexander and Jamie Taras and CFL great, Stewart Hill.

The real winner of the day is literacy! Over \$7,000 was raised to support the work of Literacy B.C. and ABC CANADA. Both organizations are committed to making a difference for the 1 in 3 people in B.C. who has difficulty reading and writing. Special thanks to all participants, volunteers, supporters and the following sponsors: **HOST SPONSORS:** Ronalds Printing, The Province, The Vancouver Sun, WHERE Magazine, Whistler Mountain Ski Corporation.

EVENT SPONSORS: Labatt Breweries of B.C., Continental PIR Communications, The Masters Group.

PRIZE CONTRIBUTORS: Great Pacific News, IABC/B.C. Chapter, Mackenzie Financial Corporation, The Province, The Vancouver Sun, WHERE Magazine.

CELEBRITY GUESTS: Ray Alexander, Tom Europe, Stewart Hill, Robin McLeish, Stephanie Sloan, Jamie Taras, Valdy.

Plans are already underway for the 1996 SKI FOR LITERACY. For more information call: (604) 687-5077.

SUPERIOR PROPANE LEARNER AWARD

As part of their support for literacy and the PGI Golf Tournament, **Superior Propane** is once again providing a \$250 **LEARNER AWARD**. Literacy B.C. is wanting applications for this award.

The criteria for the Learner Award are:

1. The student is an adult
2. The student needs to be planning to continue in a program
3. The student needs to have attended some type of program, for at least 6 months, and preferably 1 year
4. The student's attendance should be excellent
5. The student must have a recommendation from a teacher or tutor
6. The student should have shown substantial progress and/or exceptional progress
7. The student must fill out an application, but their teacher or tutor can help the student to do this.

The winner will be chosen by a committee of adult learners.

For more information and to request application forms, call Literacy B.C. at (604) 687-5077 or fax (604) 687-5076.

**DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS
IS JUNE 3, 1995**

**Superior
Propane**



NOMINATION FORM
1995
LITERACY B.C. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

I wish to nominate

1

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Your
name _____

Your
address _____

Your
signature _____

**I accept the nomination and want my
name to stand for election to the 1995-96
Literacy B.C. Board of Directors as:**

_____ Regional Representative

_____ Member at Large

Signature _____

I wish to nominate

2

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Your
name _____

Your
address _____

Your
signature _____

**I accept the nomination and want my
name to stand for election to the 1995-96
Literacy B.C. Board of Directors as:**

_____ Regional Representative

_____ Member at Large

Signature _____

DEADLINE FOR NOMINATIONS IS APRIL 28, 1995



Send this form to:
Literacy B.C.
1122 - 510 W. Hastings Street
Vancouver, B.C. V6B 1L8
Phone: (604) 687-5077
Fax: (604) 687-5076

